NO. 1

Cholera Infantum

An Inaugural Dissertation on The Cholera Infantum

Submitted to the Examination of John McDowell L.L.D. Provost The Trustees & Medical Faculty of the University of Pennsylvania for the Degree of Doctor of Medicine by

William Pinkney (Pinkney)
of Maryland

As the foundation of a future good or bad Constitution, is frequently laid in Infancy the diseases of Children of course become highly important and interesting to Society and untile of late, their Complaints have been too much intrusted to the Management of unskilful Nurses and old Women whose prescriptions are but too ofte improper and inadequate to their Cure - It frequently happens that the Physician is not called in untile the unfortunate patient has taken every prescription which the Nurse can suggest and then his skill is frequently incompetent to repair the damages done by the impropriety of the Method pursued - - - - -

The Disease denominated Cholera Infantum affects Children from the first Week after birth till the Second year - It generally appears about the first of June, and continues until near the latter End of September, the time of its appearance, duration, and danger being greatly influenced by the Heat of the Weather - A high fever, excessive discharge from the Stomach & bowells usually designate the disease, although a Diarrhea is frequently the only attendant Symptom for some days - The Matter discharged varies considerably in Appearance sometimes being green or yellow, and a discharge of blood from the bowells is not an unfrequent circumstance - Great pain restlessness, and thirst attend this Stage of the

disease, the pulse is weak and quick, the fever increases in the Morning, and is evidently of the remitting Kind – The Brain is sometimes considerably affected; in many instances delirium is the Consequence of this affection – The Insensibility of the System in this disease is very remarkable – The Stools are copious, and extremely fœtid, but at other times destitute of Smell –

Although this disease frequently proves fatal in a few days, yet it often continues for Six or Eight Weeks, in this Case many dreadful Symptoms occur – viz – Emaciation, Convulsions, Sanguities, Sore Mouth; with very few Exceptions the last mentioned Symptoms prove fatal – The Causes which produce this disease have been ascribed –

the Decoction as usual, and in a Month was perfectly recovered. The Utility of the Lead in this Case was manifest as all the Remedies usually given were tried to little or no purpose, still however the Bark and Tormentill, I have no doubt contributed greatly to the cure of the disease. The Method to be pursued in the prevention of this disease as stated by Dr Rush is certainly the best that can be adopted, viz. Cold Bath. An Accomodation of the dresses of Children to the Changes of the Weather. A Small quantity of Salted meat and good Wine together with Cleanliness, and lastly the Removal of Children into the Country —

I have [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] of the other medical [illegible], of been so ably [illegible] by [illegible]. [illegible] in [illegible] [illegible] into the [illegible] of this work, that it would be both needless and [illegible] in me to say any thing on the Subject more than to recall its causes to the same which produce the [illegible] and [illegible] in adult's—

I shall now [illegible] to speak of the Method of Treatment which I have seen most successful in [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], in which case, the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] pursued,

[illegible] mild [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
and Calomel in combination with [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] mentioned med-
-ies, and the febrile Action of the system subsided,
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
in many instances this fails, in such the stom-
-ach in which case I never saw a Cure unless
them with toasted Sulphur, and a few drops
of Laudanum administered with the sulphur
effects — Cholera [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] from the [illegible]
[illegible] considerably interest to
[illegible] to the [illegible] of which [illegible]
[illegible] to be [illegible], [illegible] the [illegible]
of darkness. But [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] succeed in [illegible] the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
of the disease after which [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] — Although the Bark is [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] — [illegible] in the disease [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
observation to think the same [illegible] much better
adapted to the cure of this disease — —
The mode of using it consists in [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] the
together with a little [illegible] — —

[illegible]

[illegible] though [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

The Dose [illegible] in the [illegible], [illegible]-tion, and use at this time is recommended by Dr. Rush is strictly correct, and when practicable should always be adhered to; nevertheless the utter impossibility of those in indigent circumstances profiting by the knowledge of this fact, induces me very desirous to possess a Medicine of sufficient power to stop the ravages of this disease when circumstances will not permit the trial of this Remedy — I cannot [illegible] to speak [illegible] the [illegible] of [illegible] and which I have [illegible] seen [illegible] below this [illegible] in the Complaint, and which I have no doubt would prove a valuable and powerful Medicine in its cure, could the [illegible] intervened of its delivery [illegible] be once recovered [illegible] time

[illegible]

that the most [illegible] [illegible]
Medical men [illegible] [illegible] not [illegible]
administered [illegible] [illegible] judgment [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] in their quality,
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] regulated according to the
constitution and attendant circumstances of the
patient [illegible] [illegible] the most [illegible] effect
Jessie & Tinctura [illegible] [illegible] administered to children
[illegible] the case of [illegible] [illegible] with the most
decided advantage and as one of the best [illegible]
tioned articles [illegible] much more activity than
the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] entertained concer-
ning its exhibition to children would appear
justly groundless —

The Case in which I was a witness of its Efficacy was as follows – A Child about seventy Months old was attacked with Cholera Infantum in the Month of July, and as the disease had continued ten or twelve hours before Medical assistance was called it was thought proper to exhibit a testaceous Julep together a little Laudanum, this had the Effect of putting an Entire Stop to the vomiting, the Julep was continued without the Laudanum for two days – as the febrile action was in a great measure overcome the Bark was prescribed in Decoction, which appeared to be serviceable, but its effects were transitory and the disease appeared to be gaining ground, and the Stools

resembled the drinks taken by the patient.
As the Complaint had continued for 10 days
and the Bark and Gorgonia had been taken
to little Effect, a trial was made of the Sugar
of Lead - the following was the formula used.
℞. Pulv. Colomb. ℈ xxv - Acet. plumb. ℈ i - Pulv. Liquirit. ℈ xvj
in Aq. viij - - One spoon was taken Morning
and Evening and the decoction of Bark con-
tinued, after the fourth dose the diarrhea was
manifestly checked, and the patient appeared
more lively; it was continued until 18 spoons
were taken, when it was thought advisable
to discontinue its use, as it was apprehended
a longer Continuance might produce some un-
pleasant Symptoms - The patient continued